



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/418,932	10/15/1999	TAKAMOTO IMATAKI	0941.63354	9496
24978	7590	02/24/2006	EXAMINER	
GREER, BURNS & CRAIN 300 S WACKER DR 25TH FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60606			BASHORE, WILLIAM L	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2176	

DATE MAILED: 02/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/418,932

Applicant(s)

IMATAKI, TAKAMOTO

Examiner

William L. Bashore

Art Unit

2176

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 December 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 and 8-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Art Unit: 2176

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: Request for Reconsideration filed 12/5/2005, to the original application filed 10/15/1999, with foreign priority filing date of **10/20/1998**. IDS filed 10/30/2000, 9/23/2002, and 8/14/2003.

2. Claims 1-6, 8-19 pending. Claims 1, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. **Claims 1-3, 6, 8-10, 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halliday et al. (hereinafter Halliday), U.S. Patent No. 5,880,740 issued March 9, 1999 in view of Mellgren, III et al. (hereinafter Mellgren), U.S. Patent No. 6,085,126 issued July 2000, and further in view of Judson, U.S. Patent No. 5,737,619 issued April 1998.**

In regard to independent claim 1, Halliday teaches a workstation, which typically includes a memory (Halliday column 7 lines 5-17, Figure 10; compare with claim 1 “a memory”).

Halliday teaches use of servers for downloading image information and programs (Halliday Figure 10 items 108, 110, 155, 157, 158). Halliday additionally teaches composite images utilizing HTML from a Web server (said HTML typically interpreted/displayed via a Web browser), and a Netscape Plug-In or downloaded Java applet can be utilized to help interpret/display a document (Halliday column 8 lines 62-67 to column 9 lines

Art Unit: 2176

1-13, also column 9 lines 20-27; compare with claim 1 *“a browser to request image information... and a display control program from the WWW server and download the image information and the control program”*).

Although Halliday does not specifically teach *“to display a screen”*, and *“related to screens”*, nevertheless, since Halliday’s images make up a screen displayed to a user, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention for the skilled artisan to interpret Halliday’s collection of images as one or more screens, providing the benefit of displaying image screens for visual impact.

Halliday teaches control structures downloaded as a file for creation/manipulation of a composite image on a workstation, images are created in accordance with image identifiers as defined in control blocks within said file, the creation of said images can be accomplished via a downloaded program (Halliday column 4 lines 40-59, column 5 lines 17-27, column 8 lines 29-34, column 9 lines 20-26, also Abstract, Figures 8, 9; compare with claim 1 *“display control.... a plurality of control blocks based on the display control program which is downloaded by the browser....control blocks developing images in said memory based on the image information which is downloaded by the browser”*).

Halliday does not specifically teach *“screens on which information is input”*, or *“each”* of said control blocks requesting/downloading information from a WWW server, or that *“control blocks are separate from the browser”*. However, Judson teaches a method of content delivery of banner advertisements and other information via the use of applets, which contain code and fill in forms (i.e. control blocks). It is noted that Judson teaches that an *“information object”* can be an applet (Judson column 7 lines 59-64, column 8 lines 40-44). A user can input or click a hyperlink, resulting in download of an applet displaying banners, etc. (Judson Abstract, column 7 lines 10-33). The applet may be a form of HTML fill-in form which a user can input information, said input form (and control blocks) separate from the browser. Said form can also include embedded links to other Web pages (Judson column 7 lines 34-47), therefore requesting additional information and images (i.e. additional Web pages). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Judson to Halliday, providing Halliday the benefit of applets for reducing the processing burden on the browser and client. (also compare with claim 1 *“each of said control blocks itself*

Art Unit: 2176

having a function of requesting and downloading the image information and the display control program from the WWW server...”).

Halliday teaches display of images and of possible alternative images as defined by a downloaded file as explained above (Halliday column 6 lines 7-11, Figures 1-6, Figure 10 items 121, 137; compare with claim 1 “*display means for displaying an image developed in said memory....*”).

Halliday teaches an embodiment comprising creation of a greeting card, as well as a digital postcard (Halliday column 3 lines 6-12, Figures 1-6, column 9 lines 55-57). Halliday also teaches said embodiment in the form of a display kiosk (Halliday column 7 lines 23-29). Halliday does not specifically teach said greeting cards/postcards, and kiosk as selections corresponding to a business selected from another displayed image. However, Mellgren teaches a method of customizing imprintable media (i.e. calling cards, etc.) via a commercial kiosk available to consumers (Mellgren column 3 lines 45-51, 60-65). Mellgren teaches a user selecting a type of product (i.e. a list of business related products – stamps, calling cards, etc.) (Mellgren Figure 7), the following screen images are dependent upon user selection of an initial image from Figure 7 (Mellgren Figures 8-11, also column 6 lines 37-52; compare with claim 1 “*...and corresponding to a business which is selected from another image which is being displayed.*”). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Mellgren to Halliday’s file embodiment and kiosk, providing Halliday the benefit of offering additional material (i.e. business related material) to consumers in a commercial type kiosk environment (see also Mellgren Figures 21-22).

In regard to dependent claim 2, claim 2 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 1, and in further view of the following, is rejected along the same rationale.

Halliday teaches use of a separate Netscape plug-in, as well as a downloadable Java applet for displaying and manipulating images of Halliday’s invention (Halliday column 9 lines 7-26).

In regard to dependent claim 3, Halliday teaches control IDs identifying images to be displayed, as well as alternate images which can be displayed, or not displayed, depending upon user selection (Halliday Figure 8, 9, column 5 lines 13-28, column 6 lines 7-20).

In regard to dependent claim 6, Halliday teaches creation of a composite (i.e. compound) image, which involves sharing of image information (i.e. boundary information) between record identifiers (Halliday Figures 8-9, column 3 lines 6-13, column 4 lines 43-50, also Abstract).

In regard to independent claim 8, claim 8 reflects the computer-readable medium for storing computer executable instructions used to implement the methods of the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claims 9, 10, claims 9, 10 reflect the computer-readable medium for storing computer executable instructions used to implement the methods of the apparatus as claimed in claims 2, 6, respectively, and are rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 18, claim 18 reflects the method comprising computer readable instructions used in the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 19, Halliday teaches creation of a composite (i.e. compound) image, which involves sharing of separate image information (i.e. boundary information) between record identifiers (Halliday Figures 8-9, column 3 lines 6-13, column 4 lines 43-50, also Abstract).

Art Unit: 2176

5. **Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halliday, Mellgren, and Judson as applied to claim 1, above, and further in view of Bretschneider et al. (hereinafter Bretschneider), U.S. Patent No. 6,128,629 issued October 2000.**

In regard to dependent claims 4-5, Halliday does not specifically teach timing regarding development and deletion of images. However, Bretschneider teaches a downloadable slide show program with images, said program automatically launched to a viewer which automatically displays a predetermined sequence of images for a predetermined amount of time (images are created and deleted according to a predetermined time) (Bretschneider Abstract, also column 5 lines 54-57; compare with claims 4-5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply Bretschneider to Halliday's card creation system with kiosk, providing Halliday the benefit of providing timed and periodic demonstrations of its offerings to prospective users.

6. **Claims 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Halliday in view of Mellgren and Judson, and further in view of Bretschneider.**

In regard to independent claim 11, claim 11 reflects the system comprising computer readable instructions used in the apparatus as claimed in claim 1, and in further view of the following, is rejected along the same rationale.

Halliday does not specifically teach timing regarding development and deletion of images. However, Bretschneider teaches a downloadable slide show program with images, said program automatically launched to a viewer which automatically displays a predetermined sequence of images for a predetermined amount of time (images are created and deleted according to a predetermined time) (Bretschneider Abstract, also column 5 lines 54-57). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to apply

Art Unit: 2176

Bretschneider to Halliday's card creation system with kiosk, providing Halliday the benefit of providing timed and periodic demonstrations of its offerings to prospective users.

Halliday teaches images either stored on a browser's cache storage area, or downloaded from the Internet, downloading (fetching) when not immediately available (Halliday column 9 lines 30-48; compare with claim 11 "*said output control means causing the WWW client to....corresponding to the business does not exist in the memory*").

In regard to independent claim 12, claim 12 incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claimed in claim 11, and in further view of the following, is rejected along the same rationale.

Halliday teaches image identifiers and control IDs (Halliday column 8 lines 29-35, Figure 8, 9), the system uses said identifiers to check relevant images accordingly (compare with claim 12 "*image check means*", and "*image ID information*").

In regard to independent claim 13, claim 13 reflects the apparatus comprising computer readable instructions used to perform the system as claimed in claim 11, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 14, claim 14 reflects the computer program product comprising computer readable instructions used to perform the system as claimed in claim 11, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 15, claim 15 reflects the medium comprising computer readable instructions used to implement the system as claimed in claim 11, and in further view of the following, is rejected along the same rationale.

Art Unit: 2176

Halliday teaches image identifiers and control IDs (Halliday column 8 lines 29-35, Figure 8, 9), the system uses said identifiers to check relevant images accordingly (compare with claim 15 “*image check means*”, and “*image ID information*”).

In regard to independent claim 16, claim 16 reflects the method comprising computer readable instructions used to perform the system as claimed in claim 11, and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to independent claim 17, claim 17 reflects the method comprising computer readable instructions used to implement the system as claimed in claim 11, and in further view of the following, is rejected along the same rationale.

Halliday teaches image identifiers and control IDs (Halliday column 8 lines 29-35, Figure 8, 9), the system uses said identifiers to check relevant images accordingly (compare with claim 17 “*in the memory to check....*”, and “*image ID information*”).

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed 12/5/2005 have been fully and carefully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues on page 16 of the Request that Judson does not meet the limitations of the control blocks of the present invention, and that Applicant's specification defines applets and control blocks as being separate and distinct elements from one another. Halliday does teach control structures downloaded as a file for creation/manipulation of a composite image on a workstation, images created in accordance with image identifiers as defined in control blocks within said file, the creation of said images can be accomplished via a downloaded program. Judson teaches content delivery of banner advertisements and other information via the use of applets, which contain code and fill in forms (i.e. control blocks). It is noted that Judson teaches that an

Art Unit: 2176

“information object” can be an applet. A user can input or click a hyperlink, resulting in download of an applet displaying banners, etc. (Judson Abstract, column 7 lines 10-33). The applet may be a form of HTML fill-in form which a user can input information, said input form (and control blocks) separate from the browser. Said form can also include embedded links to other Web pages, therefore requesting additional information and images (i.e. additional Web pages). It is additionally noted that Applicant’s representative claim 1 does not preclude a “control block” as merely a hyperlink, to which inputted information (i.e. mouse clicking said hyperlink) results in download of an image.

Applicant argues on page 17 that the present Specification defines “control blocks” as being different from “applets”. It is respectfully noted that this distinction is not recited in the claims. It is further noted that absent clarification in the claims, the scope of a “control block” can be fairly extended to an input field, a specific layout area (i.e. an image map), a hyperlink, etc.

Applicant argues on pages 19-20 that the cited art does not teach timing information. It is respectfully noted that Bretschneider teaches a downloadable slide show program with images, said program automatically launched to a viewer which automatically displays a predetermined sequence of images for a predetermined amount of time (images are created and deleted (i.e. deleted from memory) according to a predetermined time). Since various memory buffers are used for image display, deleting an image eventually deletes said buffer contents as well.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory

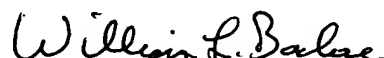
Art Unit: 2176

period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William L. Bashore whose telephone number is (571) 272-4088. The examiner can normally be reached on 11:30am - 8:00pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


WILLIAM BASHORE
PRIMARY EXAMINER

February 20, 2006